(f) if so, the action taken in details, if any; and

(g) if not, the reasons in detail for not initiating any action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (b) State Government are the owners of the dams and as such the responsibility of dam safety rests with them. The role of the Central Government is confined to giving advisory services with regard to safety and rehabilitation of such dams. As per the Dam Safety Procedures laid down by the Standing Committee of Dams in India, all large dam (irresepctive of their age) are required to be inspected twice a year during the pre-and post-monsoon periods. These inspections are to be carried out by the Dam Safety Organizations of respective States/owners of dams and the consolidated information is to be submitted in the form of Annual Reports to Dam Safety Monitoring Directorate, Central Water Commission.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) An all party Delegation of Government of Kerala met Hon'ble Prime Minister on 31.8.2006 and gave a memorandum, wherein, they have requested Government of India for immediate intervention in the matter so as to persuade Tamil Nadu to come forward for an amicable settlement of the issue. They have also raised the issues of Government of Tamil Nadu's non-cooperation in the joint inspection of the seepage management, instrumentation of the Mullaperiyar Dam and not allowing Kerala Officers to access the basic data for evaluating the safety of the dam.

Meanwhile, the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed an order on 25.9.2006 on the suit filed by Government of Tamil Nadu paying for Declaration of Kerala Irrigation and Water Conservation (Amendment) Act 2006 passed by Kerala Legislature as unconstitutional, stating "the two State Government independently or with the intervention of the Union of India may try to sort out, if possible, the dispute".

The Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) convened an inter-State meeting of the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala on Mullaperiyar dam issue on 29.11.2006 at New Delhi. Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) further discussed matter with the Ministers (WR/PW) from the States of Tamil Nadu & Kerala on 18.12.2006. The States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala reiterated their respective stand in the meetings and no consensus could be reached regarding a solution acceptable to both States.

Inspection of Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala

1627. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the 110 years old Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala cannot withstand an earthquake of magnitude between 3 and 5 on the Richter Scale which is probable in the area;

(b) whether the State Government of Kerala has demanded that Centre intervenes to facilitate proper inspection of the Mullaperiyar Dam as Tamil Nadu is not co-operating with the State Government of Kerala in this matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Ministry of Water Resources constituted an Expert

Committee on 14th June, 2000 to study the safety of Mullaperiyar Dam. The dam was found to be safe by the Expert Committee for holding water upto 142 ft. level taking into account the earthquakers of moderate intensity that occuured in Kerala on 12 December, 2000 and 7 January 2001 which were state to be of magnitude 5 on the Richter Scale.

(b) and (c) An all Party Delegation of Government of Kerala met Hon'ble Prime Minister on 31.8.2006 and gave a memorandum wherein they have requested Government of India for immediate intervention in the matter so as to persuade Tamil Nadu to come forward for an amicable settlement of the issue. They had also raised the issues of Government of Tamil Nadu's non-cooperation in the Joint inspection of the seepage management, instrumentation of the Mullaperiyar Dam and not allowing Kerala Officers to access the basic data for evaluating the safety of the dam.

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Pollution and silt problem in rivers

†1628. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether pollution and silt is increasing in major rivers of country particularly the Ghaggar and the Yamuna rivers passing through Haryana;

(b) whether as a result of it, the water carrying capacity of these rivers is being adversely affected; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider working on a policy in increase their water carrying Capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) There are polluted stretches of various rivers in India, with the Ministry of Environment and forests providing assistance to various State Governments for implementation of pollution abatement works under the National River Conservation Plan. Government of Punjab have informed that due to urbanization and industrialization, pollution is increasing in the rivers passing through the State. In respect of Yamnua river, in seven rounds of observations made by the Central Pollution Control Board in June-Dec. 2006, the water quality at Palla was meeting the desired criteria of dissolved Oxygen (DO); Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) in three rounds and did not meet the criteria in respect of Total Coliform. Water quality did not meet any of these criteria in Yamuna at Agra Canal (Madanpur Khadar), Agra Canal (Okhla) and Okhla after confluence with Shahdara drain and Nizamuddin Bridge. As per Government of NCT of Delhi, the water

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.